

# FIN

**FINE**. *adj.* [*finne*, French; *fin*, Dutch and Erse, perhaps from *finitu*, completed, Latin.]

1. Not coarse.  
Not any skill'd in loops of fingering *fine*,  
With this so curious net-work might compare. *Spenser*.  
He was arrayed in purple and *fine* linen. *Luke*.
2. Refined; pure; free from dross.  
Two vessels of *fine* copper, precious as gold. *Ezra* viii. 27.
3. Subtle; thin; tenuous: as, the *fine* spirits evaporate.
4. Refined; subtly excited.  
In substance he promised himself money, honour, friends,  
and peace in the end; but those things were too *fine* to be fortunate, and succeed in all parts. *Bacon*.  
Whether the scheme has not been pursued so far as to draw it into practice, or whether it be too *fine* to be capable of it, I will not determine. *Temple*.
5. Keen; thin; smoothly sharp.  
Great affairs are commonly too rough and stubborn to be wrought upon by the *finer* edges or points of wit. *Bacon*.
6. Clear; pellucid; transparent: as, the wine is *fine*.
7. Nice; exquisite; delicate.  
Are they not senseless then, that think the soul  
Nought but a *fine* perfection of the sense. *Davies*.  
The irons of planes are set *fine* or rank: they are set *fine*, when they stand so shallow below the sole of the plane, that in working they take off a thin shaving. *Moxon's Mech. Exer.*
8. Artful; dexterous.  
The wisdom of all these latter times, in princes affairs, is rather *fine* deliveries, and shiftings of dangers and mischiefs, than solid and grounded courses to keep them aloof. *Bacon*.
9. Fraudulent; sly; knavishly subtle.  
Through his *fine* handling, and his cleanly play,  
He all those royal signs had stol'n away. *Hubbard's Tale*.
10. Elegant; with elevation.  
To call the trumpet by the name of the metal was *fine*. *Dry.*
11. Accomplished; elegant of manners.  
He was not only the *finest* gentleman of his time, but one of the *finest* scholars. *Felton on the Classics*.
13. Showy; splendid.  
It is with a *fine* genius as with a *fine* fashion; all those are displeased at it who are not able to follow it. *Pope*.  
The satirical part of mankind will needs believe, that it is not impossible to be very *fine* and very filthy. *Swift*.
14. [Ironically.] Something that will serve the purpose; something worth contemptuous notice.  
That same knave, Ford, her husband, hath the *finest* mad devil of jealousy in him, master Brook, that ever governed frenzy. *Shakespeare's Merry Wives of Windsor*.  
They taught us, indeed, to cloath, to dwell in houses,  
To feast, to sleep on down, to be profuse:  
A *fine* exchange for liberty. *Phillips's Briton*.

**FINE**. *n. f.* [*ffin*, Cimbr.]

1. A mulct; a pecuniary punishment.  
The killing of an Irishman was not punished by our law, as manslaughter, which is felony and capital; but by a *fine* or pecuniary punishment, called an erick. *Davies on Ireland*.
2. Penalty.  
Ev'n this ill night your breathing shall expire,  
Paying the *fine* of rated treachery. *Shakespeare's King John*.
3. Forfeit; money paid for any exemption or liberty.  
The spirit of wantonness is sure scared out of him: if the devil have him not in fee-simple, with *fine* and recovery, he will never, I think, in the way of waste, attempt us again. *Shakespeare's Merry Wives of Windsor*.  
Beside *finer* set upon plays, games, balls and feasting, they have many customs which contribute to their simplicity. *Addis.*  
How vain that second life in others breath,  
Th' estate which wits inherit after death!  
Ease, health, and life for this they must resign,  
Unsure the tenure, but how vast the *fine*! *Pope*.
4. [From *finis*, Latin; *fin*, *ensin*, French.] The end; conclusion. It is seldom used but adverbially, in *fine*.  
In *fine*, whatsoever he was, he was nothing but what it pleased Zelmane, the powers of his spirit depending of her. *Sid.*  
His resolution, in *fine*, is, that in the church a number of things are strictly observed, whereof no law of scripture maketh mention one way or other. *Hooker*, b. ii. f. 5.  
Still the *fine's* the crown;  
Whate'er the course, the end is the renown. *Shakespeare*.  
Your daughter, ere she seems as won,  
Desires this ring; appoints him an encounter;  
In *fine*, delivers me to fill the time,  
Herself most chaffly absent. *Shak. All's well that ends well*.  
The blessings of fortune are the lowliest: the next are the bodily advantages of strength and health; but the superlative blessings, in *fine*, are those of the mind. *L'Estrange*.  
In *fine*, he wears no limbs about him sound,  
With sores and sicknesses beleagu'rd round. *Dryden's Juv.*  
In *fine*, let there be a perfect relation betwixt the parts and the whole, that they may be entirely of a piece. *Dryden*.

# FIN

To **FINE**. *v. a.* [from *fine*, the adjective.]

1. To refine; to purify.  
The *fining* pot is for silver, and the furnace for gold. *Prov.*  
There is a vein for the silver, and a place for gold, where they *fine* it. *Job* xxviii. 1.
2. To embellish; to decorate. Now not in use.  
Hugh Capet also, who usurp'd the crown,  
To *fine* his title with some shews of truth,  
Convey'd himself as heir to th' lady Langare. *Shakespeare's H. V.*
3. To make less coarse.  
It *finer* the grals, but makes it short, though thick. *Mortin*.
4. To make transparent.  
It is good also for fuel, not to omit the shavings of it for the *fining* of wine. *Mo. timer's Husbandry*.
5. [From the substantive.] To punish with pecuniary penalty.  
To *fine* men one third of their fortune, without any crime committed, seems very hard. *Locke*.

To **FINE**. *v. n.* To pay a fine.  
What poet ever *fin'd* for thieriff? or who  
By rhymes and verse did ever lord mayor grow? *Oldham*.

To **FINE**. *v. a.* [*fine* and *draw*.] To sow up a rent with so much nicety that it is not perceived.

**FINE**. *n. f.* [from *finedraw*.] One whose business is to sow up rents.

**FINE**. *adj.* [*fine* and *finger*.] Nice; artful; exquisite.  
The most *finest* workman on the ground,  
Arachne, by his means was vanquished. *Spenser*.

**FINE**. *adv.* [from *fine*.]

1. Beautifully; elegantly; more than justly.  
Plutarch says very *finely*, that a man should not allow himself to hate even his enemies; because, says he, if you indulge this passion on some occasions, it will rise of itself in others. *Addison's Spectator*, No. 125.
2. Keenly; sharply; with a thin edge or point.  
The walls are painted, and represent the labours of Hercules: many of them look very *finely*, though a great part of the work has been cracked. *Addison on Italy*.  
Get you black lead, sharpened *finely*, and put it into quills. *Peachment on Drawing*.
3. Not coarsely; not meanly; gaily.  
He was alone, save that he had two persons of honour, on either hand one, *finely* attired in white. *Bacon's New Atlantis*.
4. In small parts; subtly; not grossly.  
Saltpetre was but grossly beaten; for it should not be *finely* powdered. *Boyle*.
5. [Ironically.] Wretchedly; in such a manner as to deserve contemptuous notice.  
Let laws be made to obey, and not to be obeyed, and you will find that kingdom *finely* governed in a short time. *South*.  
For him the loves:  
She nam'd not me; that may be Torrismond,  
Whom he has thrice in private seen this day:  
Then I am *finely* caught in my own snare. *Dryd. Sp. Fryar*.

**FINE**. *n. f.* [from *fine*.]

1. Elegance; beauty; delicacy.  
Every thing was full of a choice *fineness*, that, if it wanted any thing in majesty, it supplied with increase in pleasure; and if at the first it struck not admiration, it ravished with delight. *Sidney*.  
The softness of her sex, and the *fineness* of her genius, conspire to give her a very distinguishing character. *Prior*.
2. Show; splendour; gaiety of appearance.  
The *fineness* of cloaths destroys the ease: it often helps men to pain, but can never rid them of any: the body may languish under the most splendid cover. *Deity of Piety*.
3. Subtlety; artfulness; ingenuity.  
Those, with the *fineness* of their souls,  
By reason guide his execution. *Shakespeare's Troil. and Cressida*.
4. Purity; freedom from dross or base mixtures.  
Our works are, indeed, nought else  
But the protractive trials of great loves,  
To find perceptive constancy in men;  
The *fineness* of which metal is not found  
In fortune's love. *Shakespeare's Troilus and Cressida*.  
I am doubtful whether men have sufficiently refined metals; as whether iron, brass, and tin be refined to the height: but when they come to such a *fineness* as serveth the ordinary use, they try no farther. *Bacon's Natural History*.  
The ancients were careful to coin their money in due weight and *fineness*, only in times of exigence they have diminished both the weight and *fineness*. *Arbutnot on Coins*.

**FINE**. *n. f.* [from *fine*.] Show; splendour of appearance; gaiety of colours.  
Dress up your houses and your images,  
And put on all the city's *finery*,  
To consecrate this day a festival. *Southern*.  
The capacities of a lady are sometimes apt to fall short in cultivating cleanliness and *finery* together. *Swift*.  
Don't chuse your place of study by the *finery* of the prospects, or the most various scenes of sensible things. *Watts*.

**FINE**. *adj.* [from *fine*.] Nice; foppish; pretending to superfluous elegance.  
A whorl, glazifying, superserviceable, *finical* rogue. *Shakespeare's King Lear*.  
I cannot hear a *finical* sop romancing, how the king took him aside at such a time; what the queen said to him at another. *L'Estrange, Fable 34*.

**FINE**. *adv.* [from *finical*.] Foppishly.

# FIN

**FINE**. *adj.* [French.] Artifice; stratagem; an unnecessary word which is creeping into the language.  
A circumstance not much to be stood upon, in case it were not upon some *finer*. *Hayward*.

**FINE**. *n. f.* [from *fine*.] One who purifies metals.  
Take away the dross from the silver, and there shall come forth a vessel for the *finer*. *Prov.* xxv. 4.

**FINGER**. *n. f.* [finger, Saxon, from *sangen*, to hold.]

1. The flexible member of the hand by which men catch and hold.  
The *fingers* and thumb in each hand consist of fifteen bones, there being three to each *finger*: they are a little convex and round towards the back of the hand, but hollow and plain towards the palm, except the last, where the nails are. The order of their dispositions is called first, second, and third phalanx: the first is longer than the second, and the second longer than the third. The upper extremity of the first bone on each *finger* has a little sinus, which receives the round head of the bones of the metacarpus. The upper extremity of the second and third bones of each *finger* hath two small sinuses, parted by a small protuberance; and the lower extremity of the first and second bones of each *finger* has two protuberances, divided by a small sinus: the two protuberances are received into the two sinuses of the upper extremity of the second and third bones; and the small sinus receives the little protuberance of the same end of the same bones. The first bone of the thumb is like the bones of the metacarpus, and it is joined to the wrist and second of the thumb, as they are to the wrist and first of the *fingers*. The second bone of the thumb is like the first bones of the *fingers*, and it is joined to the first and third, as they are to the bones of the metacarpus and second of the *fingers*. The *fingers* are moved sideways only upon their first joint. Besides these there are some small bones, called *ossa sesamoides*, because they resemble sesamum grains: they are reckoned about twelve in each hand: they are placed at the joint of the fingers, under the tendons of the flexors, to which they serve as pulleys. *Quincy*.  
You seem to understand me,  
By each at once her choppy *finger* laying  
Upon her skinny lips. *Shakespeare's Macbeth*.  
Diogenes, who is never said,  
For aught that ever I could read,  
To whine, put *finger* i' th' eye and sob,  
Because h' had ne'er another tub. *Hudibras*.  
The hand is divided into four *fingers* bending forward, and one opposite to them bending backwards, and of greater strength than any of them singly, which we call the thumb, to join with them severally or united; whereby it is fitted to lay hold of objects of any size or quantity. *Ray on the Great*.  
A hand of a vast extension, and a prodigious number of *fingers* playing upon all the organ pipes of the world, and making every one found a particular note. *Keil against Burnet*.  
Poor Peg sewed, spun, and knit for a livelihood, 'till her *finger* ends were fore. *Arbutnot's Hist. of John Bull*.
2. A small measure of extension.  
Go now, go trust the wind's uncertain breath,  
Remov'd four *fingers* from approaching death;  
Or seven at most, when thickest is the board. *Dryd. Juv.*  
One of these bows with a little arrow did pierce through a piece of steel three *fingers* thick. *Watkins's Math. Mag.*
3. The hand; the instrument of work; manufacture; art.  
Fool, that forgets her stubborn look  
This softness from thy *finger* took. *Waller*.

To **FINGER**. *v. a.* [from the noun.]

1. To touch lightly; to toy with.  
Go, get you gone, and let the papers lie;  
You would be *fingering* them to anger me. *Shakespeare*.  
One that is covetous is not so highly pleased with the meer sight and *fingering* of money, as with the thoughts of his being considered as a wealthy man. *Grew's Cefmol. Sac.*
2. To touch unseasonably or thoughtlessly.  
His ambition would needs be *fingering* the scepter, and holding him into his father's throne. *South's Sermons*.
3. To touch an instrument of music.  
She hath broke the lute;  
I did but tell her she mistook her frets,  
And bow'd her hand to teach her *fingering*. *Shakespeare*.  
To perform any work exquisitely with the *fingers*.  
Not any skill'd in loops of *fingering* fine,  
With this so curious net-work might compare. *Spenser*.

**FINGLE**. *n. f.* [from *fangle*.] A trifle: a burlesque word.  
We agree in nothing but to wrangle,  
About the slightest *fingle*. *Hudibras*, p. iii. cau. 3.

**FINICAL**. *adj.* [from *fine*.] Nice; foppish; pretending to superfluous elegance.  
A whorl, glazifying, superserviceable, *finical* rogue. *Shakespeare's King Lear*.  
I cannot hear a *finical* sop romancing, how the king took him aside at such a time; what the queen said to him at another. *L'Estrange, Fable 34*.

**FINICALLY**. *adv.* [from *finical*.] Foppishly.

# FIN

**FINICALNESS**. *n. f.* [from *finical*.] Superfluous nicety; foppery.

To **FINISH**. *v. a.* [*finir*, French; *finis*, Latin.]

1. To bring to the end purposed; to complete.  
For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to *finish* it? *Luke* xiv. 28.  
As he had begun, so he would also *finish* in you the same grace. *2 Cor.* viii. 6.  
A poet uses episodes; but episodes, taken separately, *finish* nothing. *Notes on the Odyssey*.
2. To perfect; to polish to the excellency intended.  
Though here you all perfection should not find,  
Yet is it all th' Eternal Will design'd;  
It is a *finish'd* work, and perfect in his kind. *Blackmore*.  
I would make what bears your name as *finish'd* as my last work ought to be; that is, more *finish'd* than the rest. *Pope*.
3. To end; to put an end to.

**FINISHER**. *n. f.* [from *finish*.]

1. Performer; accomplisher.  
He that of greatest works is *finisher*,  
Oft does them by the weakest minister. *Shakespeare*.
2. One that puts an end; ender.  
This was the plain condition of those times; the whole world against Athanasius, and Athanasius against it: half an hundred of years spent in doubtful trials which of the two, in the end, would prevail; the side which had all, or else that part which had no friend but God and death, the one a defender of his innocence, the other a *finisher* of all his troubles. *Hooker*, b. v. f. 42.
3. One that completes or perfects.  
The author and *finisher* of our faith. *Hebrews*.  
O prophet of glad tidings! *finisher*  
Of utmost hope! *Milton's Paradise Lost*, b. xii.

**FINITE**. *adj.* [*finitus*, Latin.] Limited; bounded; terminated.  
Servius conceives no more thereby than a *finite* number for indefinite. *Brown's Vulgar Errors*, b. iv. c. 12.  
*Finite* of any magnitude holds not any proportion to infinity. *Locke*.  
That supposed infinite duration will, by the very supposition, be limited at two extremes, though never so remote asunder, and consequently must needs be *finite*. *Bentley's Sermon*.

**FINITELESS**. *adj.* [from *finite*.] Without bounds; unlimited.  
It is ridiculous unto reason, and *finiteless* as their desires. *Brown's Vulgar Errors*.

**FINITELY**. *adv.* [from *finite*.] Within certain limits; to a certain degree.  
They are creatures still, and that sets them at an infinite distance from God; whereas all their excellencies can make them but *finutely* distant from us. *Stillingfleet*.

**FINITENESS**. *n. f.* [from *finite*.] Limitation; confinement within certain boundaries.  
I ought now to unbury the current of my passion, and love without other boundary than what is set by the *finiteness* of my natural powers. *Norris*.

**FINITUDE**. *n. f.* [from *finite*.] Limitation; confinement within certain boundaries.  
*Finitude*, applied to natural or created things, imports the proportions of the several degrees of affections, or properties of these things to one another; infinitude, the unboundedness of these degrees of affections, or properties. *Cleyn*.

**FINLESS**. *adj.* [from *fin*.] Without fins.  
He angers me  
With telling of the moldwarp and the ant,  
And of a dragon and a *finless* fish. *Shakespeare's Henry IV*.

**FINLIKE**. *adj.* [*fin* and *like*.] Formed in imitation of fins.  
In shipping such as this, the Irish kern  
And untought Indian, on the stream did glide;  
Ere sharp-keel'd boats to stem the flood did learn,  
Or *finlike* oars did spread from either side. *Dryd. Ann. Mir.*

**FINNED**. *adj.* [from *fin*.] Having broad edges spread out on either side.  
They plow up the turf with a broad *finned* plough. *Mortin*.

**FINNY**. *adj.* [from *fin*.] Furnished with fins; formed for the element of water.  
High o'er the main in wat'ry pomp he rides,  
His azure car and *finny* couriers guides;  
Proteus his name. *Dryden's Virg. Georg.* b. iv.  
New herds of beasts he sends the plains to share;  
New colonies of birds to people air;  
And to their oozy beds the *finny* fish repair. *Dryd. Ovid*.  
While black with storms the ruffled ocean rolls,  
And from the fisher's art defends her *finny* tholes. *Blackmore*.  
With hairy springs we the birds betray;  
Slight lines of hair surprize the *finny* prey. *Pope*.

**FINTOED**. *adj.* [*fin* and *toe*.] Palmipedous; having a membrane between the toes.  
Such creatures as are whole footed, or *finfooted*, viz. some birds and quadrupeds, are naturally directed to go into the water and swim there. *Ray on the Creation*.

FINCH.